

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic-mail ("e-mail")-Internet Protocol ("IP") telephony system comprising:
 - an IP telephony hyperlink appended to an e-mail sent to a recipient by a subscriber of the system wherein the recipient clicks on the hyperlink to initiate a telephone call to the subscriber;
 - a gatekeeper interfacing between said recipient's software and a subscriber information verification and authentication means, wherein said gatekeeper assesses a voice communication channel opening request from the recipient;
 - a web phone call ("WPC") document containing an IP address of said gatekeeper with subscription information and a designated telephone number of said subscriber;
 - a router service management for said gatekeeper to search a specific router and to send an IP address of a specific gateway to the recipient's software; and
 - said specific gateway in communication with the gatekeeper to release the voice communication channel to the recipient and to connect voice packets from said recipient with a PSTN of said subscriber.

2. An e-mail-IP telephony system as in claim 1, wherein said recipient's software is a mini webphone.

3. An e-mail-IP telephony system as in claim 1, wherein the subscriber information verification and authentication means is Remote Authentication Dial in User Service ("Radius").

4. An e-mail-IP telephony system as in claim 1, wherein said specific gateway communicates with said gatekeeper through Transport Control Protocol/Internet Protocol ("TCP/IP") communication suite.

5. An e-mail-IP telephony system as in claim 1, wherein said PSTN is housed at the subscriber's locality to avert the subscriber from incurring long distance telephone charges.

6. An e-mail-IP telephony system as in claim 1, wherein said IP telephony hyperlink appended on said e-mail appears as a toll-free telephone number.

7. An e-mail-IP telephony system as in claim 5, wherein said toll-free telephone number is a 1-800 number.

8. A method for connecting an electronic-mail ("e-mail")-Internet Protocol ("IP") telephone call comprising:

- a one-time collection of information from an e-mail sender and storing said information in an e-mail-IP telephony system;
- said e-mail sender sending an e-mail to a recipient with an IP telephony hyperlink appending to said e-mail;

- said e-mail recipient clicking said IP telephony hyperlink to initiate a telephone call to the subscriber and to activate a request to open a voice communication channel;
- a system website in communication with said IP telephony hyperlink and sending a web phone call ("WPC") document to the recipient; wherein said WPC document containing IP address of said gatekeeper with subscription information and a designated telephone number of said subscriber;
- said WPC document sending the subscriber's information to said gatekeeper, wherein said gatekeeper interfacing with a subscriber information verification and authentication means for authenticating the subscriber's information;
- said gatekeeper searching for specific router from a router service management and sending the IP address of a specific gateway to said recipient's software; and
- said gatekeeper authenticating the WPC document and notifying a gateway to release the voice communication channel to the recipient and said gateway connecting voice packets from said recipient with a PSTN of said subscriber.

9. A method for connecting an e-mail-IP telephone call as in claim 7, wherein the subscriber information verification and authentication means is Remote Authentication Dial in User Service ("Radius").

10. A method for connecting an e-mail-IP telephone call as in claim 7, wherein said specific gateway communicates with said gatekeeper through Transport Control Protocol/Internet Protocol ("TCP/IP") communication suite.

11. A method for connecting an e-mail-IP telephone call as in claim 7, wherein said PSTN is housed at the subscriber's locality to avert the subscriber from incurring long distance telephone charges.

12. A method for connecting an e-mail-IP telephone call as in claim 7, wherein said IP telephony hyperlink appended on said e-mail appears as a toll-free telephone number.

13. A method for connecting an e-mail-IP telephone call as in claim 11, wherein said toll-free telephone number is a 1-800 number.